Mountain Weather Forecast

Lake District National Park

Forecast valid from 00:00 on Thursday 21 Dec 2023 until 23:59 on Friday 22 Dec 2023

Forecast Issued on Wednesday 20 Dec 2023 at 11:05

Confidence: High confidence for unsettled and windy conditions through the coming days. Lower for rain or snow details.

Headline for Thursday 21 Dec 2023: Very windy with stormy conditions on the tops. Bright intervals and showers.

Mountain weather hazards on Thursday 21 Dec 2023

Blizzards No Likelihood	**Heavy persistent snow** No Likelihood	**Storm force winds** Medium Likelihood
Gales High Likelihood	**Severe chill effect** Medium Likelihood	**Poor visibility** Low Likelihood
Thunderstorms No Likelihood	**Heavy persistent rain** No Likelihood	**Strong sunlight** No Likelihood

Weather and chance of precipitation at 800m							
Time							
00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00
Heavy Rain	Heavy Rain	Light rain	Light rain showers	Light rain showers	Sleet showers	Sleet showers (night)	Sleet showers (night)
Precipitation probability							
70%	70%	70%	30%	30%	30%	30%	30%

Forecast for Thursday 21 Dec 2023

Weather: Cloudy overnight with spells of rain, clearing around dawn. Thursday will see a mixture of bright spells and showers, these falling as sleet or wet snow above 800m from afternoon onwards. The very strong winds will be the main feature of the weather.

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: 10% overnight becoming 70% soon after dawn.

Low cloud and visibility: Extensive cloud and fog above 400m overnight, lifting and breaking soon after dawn. Mainly good visibility during the day but occasionally poor in showers with patchy cloud down to 500m.

Check our weather forecast every day to get the most accurate and up to date information
https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/weather/specialist-forecasts/mountain
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Mountain Weather Forecast

Forecast for Thursday 21 Dec 2023

Height (m)	Wind Speed mean/gusts (mph)					Wind Direction (blowing from)			
	00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	43/55 W	49/64 W	57/76 W	57/75 W	57/75 W	52/68 NW	48/64 NW	43/58 NW	41/55 W
600	35/48 W	39/54 W	45/65 W	44/64 W	43/63 W	40/58 NW	36/53 NW	31/47 NW	31/46 W
300	14/39 W	16/46 W	21/57 W	21/56 W	21/56 NW	20/52 NW	17/45 NW	15/41 NW	15/40 NW
Valley	14/34 W	17/41 W	20/50 W	19/48 W	19/47 W	17/43 W	14/37 NW	13/34 W	14/33 W

Height (m)	Temperature / Feels Like (°C)								
	00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	4/-3	5/-3	4/-4	3/-6	2/-7	1/-8	1/-8	1/-8	1/-7
600	6/-0	6/0	6/-1	5/-2	4/-3	4/-4	3/-4	3/-4	3/-3
300	8/4	8/4	8/4	8/3	7/2	6/1	5/1	5/1	6/1
Valley	9/7	10/7	10/7	10/6	10/6	9/5	8/5	8/5	8/5
Freezing Level*	1900m	2200m	1700m	1400m	1200m	1100m	1000m	1000m	1100m

**Level above which ground is expected to be frozen/snow is expected to settle.*

Meteorologist's View

Very windy conditions with progress severely impeded on high slopes. Hazardous conditions on exposed ridges and summits.

Forecast for Friday 22 Dec 2023

Weather: Cloudy with outbreaks of rain, falling as sleet above 800m.

Maximum wind: West or Northwest 30 to 40mph, gusts 60mph.

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: 30%.

Low cloud and visibility: Occasional cloud and fog above 600m, but patchier in the east. Away from cloud, mainly good visibility but poor at times in rain.

Temperature: **Valleys:** Plus 7C rising to 9C.
At 800m: Plus 2C rising to 4C.
Freezing level: Above summits.

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Ground Conditions Supplement

Date: Wednesday 20 December 2023 Location: Helvellyn summit at 11:10 Full report: As far as walkers are concerned, the Lakeland fells and paths are now completely free from snow and ice. The only insignificant patches of snow seen today were above 800m at the top of steep north facing slopes and as such, represent no hazard to walkers. Even Helvellyn's large east face (frequently the last spot in the Lakes to hold snow) is virtually snow free. The main hazards encountered today were the strength of the wind and driving rain with the associated damp, slippery ground conditions. These factors were causing most of the few people out today to turn back way before the summit. Walkers considering venturing out on Thursday should bear in mind that conditions are forecast to be even worse with Cumbria under a Met Office Yellow warning for wind from Midnight tonight until 9pm on Thursday ie including all daylight hours; thus conditions will be challenging especially on steep and exposed terrain. Despite the milder weather in the valleys, the summit windchill (what the temperature actually feels like) remains below zero - minus 5 degrees C around 11am. Thus, full winter clothing (waterproofs, extra warm layers, hat and gloves), mountain boots and equipment including a torch, map and compass are all essential to safely, and enjoyably, roam the fells. Given the forecast, a good sense of humour could also be essential for walkers out on Thursday!! For those interested in the weather stats the wind speed recorded on the summit was, as often happens owing to its topography, less than experienced on the ascent/descent where gusts up to 60mph were felt. Temperature: plus 3.4 C, Maximum wind speed 37.8 mph, Wind chill: minus 4.9 C, Average wind speed: 28.0 mph.

Issued at: 1105 on Wed 20 Dec 2023

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